

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Ronald Norris, 57, of Derby, New York, who pled guilty to a felony charge of knowing possession of child pornography on January 4, 2008, was sentenced yesterday to 78 months in prison, 5 years supervised release, and a fine of \$24,000 as a result of the investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE) in lieu of the forfeiture of his residence and property located in Evans, New York, by Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The defendant has also agreed to surrender his New York state teaching and administrator certificates to the New York State Department of Education, U.S. Attorney Terrance P. Flynn of the Western District of New York announced today.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr., who handled the case, stated that the defendant had been convicted of the knowing possession of images of child pornography that had traveled through interstate and foreign commerce on a computer which he used at his home. According to the defendant's plea agreement, he has agreed to forfeit his interest in two computers and electronic storage media which was seized from him on November 28, 2006.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Lev Kubiak. "This fiscal year alone, stated the ICE SAC,

Buffalo, New York, “ office cyber investigative groups have arrested twenty-nine (29) individuals for criminal child exploitation crimes, including the possession, receipt, production and distribution of child pornography, as well as interstate child sex tourism violations. In addition to these arrests, the groups have executed over fifty-nine (59) seizures of evidence and executed thirty-seven (37) Federal search warrants on both residences and computer related media.”